

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, WMO
SUBJECT: WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTS NEW US PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE

1. THE 30TH SESSION OF THE WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
BEGAN ITS WORK JUNE 6 AND AMONG ITS FIRST ACTIONS
ELECTED DR. GEORGE BENTON, ACTING ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRA-
TOR OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRA-
TION (NOAA), AS US MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION'S
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. DR. BENTON SUCCEEDS DR. ROBERT
WHITE WHO WAS US MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR LAST FOURTEEN YEARS.

2. OPENING SESSION WAS CHAIRED BY MR. M.F. TAHA,
PRESIDENT OF WMO. SECRETARY GENERAL, DR. DAVID A.
DAVIES, WAS ALSO PRESENT. DAVIES' INTENTION TO
RUN FOR RE-ELECTION APPEARS ALMOST CERTAIN AT THIS
POINT. HOWEVER, SITUATION ON THIS MATTER STILL
FLUID AND WILL BE SUBJECT OF SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAM.

3. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT RECOMMENDATIONS OF
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, WHICH MET FROM MAY 25 TO
JUNE 2, EC WILL REVIEW WMO ACTIVITIES IN MAJOR
PROGRAMS, NAMELY WORLD WEATHER WATCH, RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT, METEOROLOGICAL APPLICATIONS AND
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ENVIRONMENT, HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT. EC WILL ALSO CONSIDER A NUMBER OF
QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE QUADRENNIAL WMO CONGRESS
TO BE HELD IN GENEVA IN APRIL-MAY 1979. EC WILL
IN PARTICULAR EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON THE SECRETARY
GENERAL'S PROPOSALS FOR THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE NEXT FOUR-YEAR PERIOD.

THESE PROPOSALS INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW
WMO WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAM.

4. DURING PREPARATORY COMMITTEE PERIOD, US AND OTHER
MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY CANADA AND FRG, EXPRESSED CONCERN
THAT ORGANIZATION'S GROWTH RATE, AS REFLECTED IN SYG'S
PROPOSALS, IS TOO HIGH CONSIDERING RELATIVE PRIORITIES
AND CURRENT FINANCIAL PRESSURES FACED BY MOST NATIONS.

5. PREPARATORY COMMITTEE GROUP ON BUDGET AND FINANCIAL
MATTERS, CHAIRED BY N. JOHNSON (USA), WILL RECOMMEND
THAT EC REQUEST CONGRESS TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY THE NEXT
FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM/BUDGET AND MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS
IN ORDER TO REMAIN WITHIN BUDGETORY LIMITS ACCEPTABLE
TO MEMBERS. STAFF GROWTH AS ENVISAGED BY SYG WAS
CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY EXCESSIVE AND UNWARRANTED.

6. THERE WAS SOME PRESSURE FROM LDC'S TO INCREASE
RESOURCES IN REGULAR BUDGET DEVOTED TO FELLOWSHIPS.
US AND OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS EXPRESSED OPPOSITION
TO INCREASES IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN REGULAR BUDGET
AND INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER INSTEAD INCREASING
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(VAP). VANDEN HEUVEL

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